

government expected to contribute \$9 million for facilities and Bell Canada and Canadian National Telecommunications were expected to commit a similar amount for local exchange equipment and operation of telephone circuits between communities.

CN Telecommunications provides service in Yukon and the Northwest Territories west of longitude 102° and in northern British Columbia, and by the end of 1978 had 62 telephone exchanges and 33,800 telephones in the area, as well as a digital switching network. The company planned to extend its digital switching network in 1979 and 1980, and to transfer its operations in this area to a wholly owned subsidiary, Northwest Telecommunications, Inc.

Bell Canada serves the eastern half of the Northwest Territories up to the Arctic Circle, as well as Northern Quebec. In the fiscal year 1978-79, the company installed seven new earth stations and added 39 satellite circuits to existing facilities, most of them in the Northwest Territories. Bell Canada has trained and employs some Inuit, and offers a telephone directory in Inuktitut, English and French.

Telecommunications statistics. Table 16.6 shows how the annual operating revenues of the carriers from their non-telephone telecommunications activities expanded between 1973 and 1978. During the same period, the annual telegram volume declined but the number of cablegrams, including wireless messages and transatlantic telex messages grew from 7.4 million in 1973 to more than 11.3 million in 1978. Money transfers also rose in the same period from almost \$42 million to nearly \$58.7 million.

16.3 Federal regulations and services

16.3.1 Department of Communications (DOC)

Establishment of the department in 1969 grew out of government awareness that communications policies, already affecting the lives of Canadians, would have an even more significant impact in the future. The department is responsible for ensuring that Canadians have the best possible access to a broad range of communications services and that these are provided at reasonable cost. With respect to the new information technologies, the department aims at their orderly development and introduction, particularly concerning their impact on social and cultural values and the quality of life, as well as on the economy.

The duties, powers and functions of the minister of communications include all matters relating to telecommunications over which the Parliament of Canada has jurisdiction, except those by law assigned to any other department, branch or agency of the federal government.

Policy. A continuing focus of the policy sector has been the far-reaching effects of the information revolution to be precipitated by the new information technologies. The department has been examining such issues as communications rights, including public access to these new services; the implications of omnipresent computerized information systems for personal privacy and the need to ensure they do not become a means of social control; the importance of ensuring that Canadian industry benefits from these new technologies; the impact of automation on the workplace with respect to employment and the quality of work; and the implications of the new technologies for federal and provincial jurisdictions over telecommunications. The department has been studying the way in which the roles of members of the Canadian telecommunications system — carriers, cable companies, broadcasters and others — should evolve under the impact of the new technologies; the implications of these technologies for the Canadian broadcasting system; and the possible threat to Canadian sovereignty posed by future depositing of vital Canadian business, social and political data in foreign data banks. Of particular concern are the social, economic, political and cultural consequences if Canada ended up as an importer of the new technologies, rather than developing them itself for domestic and world markets.

One area of concern has been the importation of terminal devices intended for public consumption and attachment to Canadian telecommunication networks, and the implications of this both for the economy and the integrity of Canadian telecommunica-